



# **FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

State Emergency Operations Center  
Camp Murray, Washington



**For immediate release**

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## **Update: Elk Heights Fire in Kittitas County**

CAMP MURRAY – Firefighters from Yakima, Grant, Benton, Snohomish, and Thurston counties along with College Place, Ephrata, Hanford, and Mount Vernon fire departments continue to assist local firefighters working to contain the Elk Heights Fire, approximately 10 miles west of Ellensburg in Kittitas County.

A total of 137 firefighters, 61 engines/tenders, 4 10-person hand crews, helicopters, fixed winged aircraft and 2 dozers are involved in fighting the fire. These firefighters and apparatus will complement the firefighters and engines/tenders from the local jurisdictions.

The fire has burned approximately 100-300 acres and is threatening 200 residences and structures. Five homes have been destroyed. Exit 93 on westbound I-90 is closed to traffic with the exception of arriving fire apparatus.

The Washington State Fire Mobilization Act was declared on July 30, 2004, at 5:15 p.m. by Chief Lowell Porter, and implemented by the Fire Protection Bureau of the Washington State Patrol at the request of the local fire service. Support from the state's Emergency Management Division at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray.

Creating a defensible space around your home is a must for residents living in a potential wild land fire area. The following are the 10 steps to defensible space:

- Thin tree and brush cover.
- Dispose of slash and debris left from thinning.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Stack firewood away from home.
- Maintain irrigated green belt around the home.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
- Trim branches.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest.

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